

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 10, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 15 through 24 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claims 15 through 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gallagher (U.S. Patent No. 5,907,603) in view of Nagel (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,900) or Nolting (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,301). The Office Action took the position that Gallagher disclosed all the elements of the claimed invention, with the exception of "explicitly show[ing] wherein identification data identifying the computer is used." Nagel and/or Nolting are cited as curing the deficiencies in Gallagher; the Office Action then took the position that it would have been obvious to combine Gallagher with either Nagel or Nolting to yield the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and submit that each of claims 15 through 24 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art.

Claim 15, upon which claims 16 through 20 are dependent, recites a method for restoring a back-up copy in a telecommunication system. The method is recited as comprising at least two computer units, with each comprising means for generating a back-up copy of the computer unit. The computer units belong to a telephone exchange system. A back-up unit comprises means for storing a back-up copy, with the back-up unit belonging to a telephone exchange system. A communication system connects the computer units to the back-up unit. In the method, the back-up copies of the computer

units are saved to the back-up unit, and the back-up copy is restored to the computer unit when necessary. Identification data identifying the computer unit is saved to the back-up unit in conjunction with the back-up copy. The identification data is obtained from data transmitted in the signaling of the communication system, or appended to the back-up copy by the computer unit. A back-up copy is directed to a computer unit on the basis of the identification data, and the back-up copies are restored to the appropriate computer units either automatically or by being triggered by an operator.

Independent claim 20, upon which claims 21 through 24 are dependent, is directed to a system for the restoration of a back-up copy in a telecommunications system. The system of claim 20 comprises at least two computer units, with each comprising means for generating a back-up copy of the computer unit. The computer units belong to a telephone exchange system. A back-up unit comprises means for storing a back-up copy, with the back-up unit belonging to a telephone exchange system. A communication system connects the computer units to the back-up unit. Means are provided for storing the back-up copies of the computer units in the back-up unit. Means are also provided for restoring the back-up copy to the computer unit when necessary. The system also comprises means for saving identification data identifying the computer unit to the back-up unit in conjunction with the back-up copy. The identification data is either obtained from data transmitted in the signaling of the communication system, or appended to the back-up copy by the computer unit. Means are also provided for directing a back-up copy to a computer unit on the basis of the identification data, and means are provided for

restoration of the back-up copies to the appropriate computer units either automatically, or by being triggered by an operator.

As a result of the method and system of the claimed invention, the amount of work to be done by an operator in restoring a back-up copy of data is significantly reduced. Automatic restoration can reduce the risk of occurrence of errors, and allows the system to reach normal operational condition sooner than prior art systems. The user is not needed to concentrate on the restoration of a back-up copy, which is an issue in the systems and methods where the user must manually restore back-up copies individually. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of Gallagher, Nagel, and/or Nolting fails to disclose or suggest the elements of the claimed invention, and therefore fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages provided thereby.

A database-driven automatic message accounting system 10 interfaces with a call processing system 12, which records data associated with each telephone call. The data is stored in a buffer, then transferred to the automatic message accounting system 10 after the buffer is full, or after the passage of a predetermined period of time. The buffer contents are written to a memory device such as a storage disk 14. Gallagher explains, however, that the data may be manually copied from disk 14 to another storage medium such as magnetic tapes 16 (see, for example, columns 2 and 3 of Gallagher). Gallagher is only directed, therefore, to distribution of call data; although Gallagher does generally disclose the "backing-up" of data, the back-up system in Gallagher is a typical, conventional, manual back-up to a storage device such as a tape drive. There is no

disclosure nor suggestion in Gallagher of a method or system as recited in any of claims 15 through 24, wherein a back-up unit belongs to a telephone exchange system, and a communication system connects the computer units to the back-up unit, where the back-up copy is restored utilizing identification data, as recited in the present claims. It is further submitted that neither Nagel nor Nolting cure this and other significant deficiencies which exist in Gallagher.

Nagel discloses a system and method for single access database retrievals. The Office Action takes the position that Figure 3 of Nagel discloses accessing data from a data record stored in an index database. However, Nagel merely discloses typical database access wherein a desired telephone data record associated with a particular telephone number is accessed. Nagel is not at all directed to back-up systems. Therefore, if Nagel were to be combined with Gallagher, there would still be no disclosure nor suggestion of the elements of any of claims 15 through 24. Furthermore, there is no incentive to combine Nagel with Gallagher to yield the claimed invention, since neither reference is directed to automated back-up of data.

Nolting discloses data preparation for traffic track usage measurement. The Office Action took the position that column 6 of Nagel discloses database access using access to an external database, and using mapping information and descriptive identifiers. However, like Nagel, Nolting fails to cure the significant deficiencies which exist in Gallagher. There is no disclosure nor suggestion in any of the cited references, when viewed singly or when combined, of utilizing identification data identifying a computer

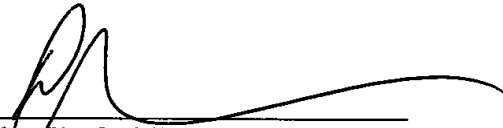
unit in conjunction with a back-up unit and a back-up copy, wherein when the back-up copy is restored, the back-up copy is directed to the computer unit on the basis of the identification data. The cited prior art relates to CDRs, which are call-detailed records which include information that is regularly accumulated in a network node in telecommunication networks. Information is collected away from the network node for further processing, and is not restored to the network node as a back-up copy. There is simply no disclosure nor suggestion in any of these references regarding back-up and restoration of data to a computer unit based upon identification data. The only reference which addresses back-ups in any way is Gallagher, but Gallagher discloses prior art, manual, back-ups to a magnetic tape or drive.

In view of the above, applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 15 through 24 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. It is respectfully submitted that this subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unobviousness to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Applicants therefore request that each of claims 15 through 24 be found allowable, and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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